

DATE

Blake A. Pino
10626 Timberlake Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2015-1448

Dear Mr. Pino:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its February 19, 2016 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether you, as a former Assistant Parish Attorney with the East Baton Rouge Parish Attorney's Office, can provide legal services to the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner's Office. Prior to the termination of your public service on December 18, 2015, you were responsible for sales tax rules, sewer user fee cases, traffic court, bond forfeiture hearings, and subrogation for the City of Baton Rouge. You stated that you also worked on a few projects/cases for the Coroner's Office, including collection matters. You also stated that you and/or Hannah, Colvin & Pipes, LLP, the law firm with which you are currently employed, would enter into a contract with the Coroner's Office for the provision of legal services.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit you or your current employer from contracting with the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner's Office for the provision of legal services. However, the Code would prohibit you from assisting in any case, or other particular matter, in which you participated at any time during your public employment, for two years. La. R.S. 42:1121B(1) prohibits a former public employee, for a period of two years following the termination of his public employment, from assisting another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction in which he participated at any time during his public employment and involving his former governmental entity, or for a period of two years following termination of his public employment, from rendering any service which he had rendered to the agency during the term of his public employment on a contractual basis, regardless of the parties to the contract, to, for, or on behalf of his former agency. La. R.S. 42:1102(2)(a) provides that "agency" means a department, office, division, agency, commission, board, committee, or other organization unit of a governmental entity. As such, your agency was the East Baton Rouge Parish Attorney's Office. Pursuant to La. Const. Art. V, § 29, the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner's Office is part of the Judicial Branch of state government. Therefore, it would not present a violation of La. R.S. 42:1121B(1), if you or your current

employer enter into a contract with the Coroner's Office for the provision of legal services. However, you may not assist in any case, or other particular matter, that you worked on while you were employed with the Parish Attorney's Office, before December 18, 2017.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Vivian Haley Williams
For the Board

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THIS IS NOT AN OPINION OF THE BOARD OF
ETHICS